



Issue 7, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

It was great to see so many of you at this week's Parent/Carer Consultation Evening. You shared with both me and the governors some lovely comments about the teachers and how well your child learns at THS – we will ensure that this praise is passed on to the classroom staff. It's encouraging to know that the hard work of the adults in school is very much valued. Thank you for your continued support.

If you completed the SEND parent/carer survey, the governors will be in touch in the forthcoming weeks sharing the evaluation.

We've avoided the snow (hurrah) so surely Spring must be around the corner...? We are currently putting together dates for the Summer term Sports Days, school shows, etc. There's still much to look forward to as we head into the second half of the academic year.

Have a lovely holiday everyone. See you bright and early on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February. Remember clubs start back straight-away.

Sending love to you and your families over the break

Pippa x

## Safeguarding News

NSPCC are inviting parents, gamers and professionals to attend

Game Safe festival 5<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

This is to help raise awareness and educate parents/professionals on how to keep children safe while playing games online. The link below provides further information.

[https://ww1.emma-live.com/GameSafe/purchase\\_tickets](https://ww1.emma-live.com/GameSafe/purchase_tickets)

Useful numbers and a web link to support if you have concerns about a child during the half term.

<https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/advice-and-support/raise-a-concern/>

Social care first response: 01296 383962 or 08454600001

Thames valley police 999 or 101

## Holiday Hunger

If you are worried about affording to feed the family this half term, please see the links below for some of the support which is available in the local area.

This link to Buckinghamshire Council has lots of advice and opportunities for support with food and other support both during the holidays and at other times.

<https://familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/advice-and-support/money-and-benefits/help-with-essentials/>

Holiday hunger is an amazing opportunity for those on low income. To be eligible parents/carers must be able to provide proof of:

- . Universal Credit
- . Pupil Premium
- . Previously used HAF Voucher email.

For further information and to book please follow the link below. There are a limited amount of spaces!

<https://thomley.org.uk/free-visits-over-the-february-half-term-for-those-on-benefits-as-part-of-a-holiday-hunger-campaign-very-kindly-supported-by-cash-for-kids/>



## Healthy Lunch Box

### Supertato's Tips for a Healthy Lunchbox:

- 😊 Vary the contents of your child's lunchbox daily.
- 😊 Involve your child in preparing their lunchbox. They are more likely to enjoy food they have made themselves.
- 😊 Keep different breads in the freezer so you can just take out and defrost what you need for one day's lunchbox. Using different breads will make the lunchbox more interesting and enjoyable.
- 😊 For variety, use pitta strips, crackers, bread sticks, or fruit and vegetable finger foods with a dip.
- 😊 Make a fruit smoothie by blending juice and fruit together, or a yoghurt or milk drink by mixing yoghurt or semi-skimmed milk with pureed fruit.
- 😊 You can use leftovers; for example, rice and curry, vegetable pizza or pasta and sauce.
- 😊 Wash your hands before handling food. Wash fruit and vegetables before use and put food in clean containers.
- 😊 Use fresh fruit and vegetables which are in season to help the environment and enjoy variety!
- 😊 Everyone enjoys a treat in their lunchbox – go ahead! Just make sure your lunchbox is nutritionally balanced.
- 😊 Please don't include sweets or fizzy drinks in your child's lunch box.
- 😊 Remember we are a 'Know Nuts' school so nothing with any kind of nut please to help keep all our BIRDS safe (if you are using chocolate spread please make sure it is a type without hazelnuts).



## Parking Notice

As a reminder, it is illegal to stop on the yellow zigzag lines outside the school, or to park across a dropped kerb. The Highway Code also states that drivers should not park on the kerb where this causes an obstruction and we have had occurrences recently where parents/ carers have parked and driven in such a way as to cause not only inconvenience but danger to our Thomas Hickman BIRDS. Therefore, we are once again asking parents and carers to think really carefully about where and how you are parking.

Firstly, please consider whether you need to drive to drop off and pick up your child. While it may seem to be the most convenient method, once you factor in the stress of parking and trying to get up and down Belgrave Road, it may well be easier to leave the car behind and walk.

For those who don't live within walking distance, please consider using the Tesco car park, or parking further down Belgrave Road and walking the last section to school. This will help to alleviate some of the congestion we are experiencing at both drop off and collection and will also earn the children their 'walk to school' badges.

We would also encourage you to take advantage of our soft start and finish times: gates are open from 8:30 – 8:45 in the morning and from 3:10 – 3:30 in the afternoon. This should allow everyone to drop off and pick up in a timely manner while keeping everyone safe.





## PE Newsletter: February Edition 2024

PE @ THS has well and truly kicked off 2024 with a bang! Each class has been working hard in various sports and activities, and our teams are back underway in their respective leagues in different sports.

### Netball:

THS HAWKS netball team played exceptionally well in their first competitive match against Haydon Abbey. They dominated for large parts of the contest – showing excellent attacking, defending and movement skills – and came out 7-2 winners!

Confidence was sky high going into their second encounter of the year against Ickford. Known for their excellent netball teams, THS found it an extremely energy-sapping and physical match, eventually losing comfortably to a superb team. What a wonderful learning experience it was for our team however and it should help them enormously moving forward.



### Handball:



The handball leagues came to a close this week as Mr Lambert and Mr Pearce took our two handball teams to the final round of league games. The progress that the children have made from the very first set of fixtures has been nothing short of phenomenal and they showed all of our BIRDS values throughout the evening. Team A managed to win their league and received gold medals for their efforts, while Team B finished second in their league but stormed their way to victory in all of the evening's matches – even managing a cheeky win over Team A in the process!

Congratulations to both teams for fantastic effort!

Team A: Noah, Leo, Jack, Darius, Aleena, Ramisa, Callie

Team B: Guransh, Mark, Priyansh, Olivia, Jaycee, Allanya, Sulaiman

### Year 5 Swimming:

I just wanted to say how proud I am of our THS BIRDS in Year 5 for their effort and determination during swimming lessons. The children have worked so hard and made tremendous progress in such an important area of their development. Please continue to support the progress by swimming regularly to ensure our BIRDS are safe in the water.



With so many events coming up in the Spring/Summer Term, I am looking forward to another fantastic term of sport at THS!



## World Book Day

Costumes at the ready! THS will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024. We will be holding our annual Character Parade on the playground at 9am and all parents and carers are welcome to come and watch (feel free to clap and cheer the children on!). Children will then return to their classes to take part in a plethora of book related activities and will bring home their book token which can be exchanged for one of the specially commissioned WBD titles, or used to get £1.00 off a different book.

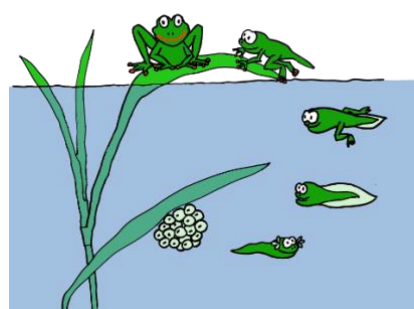


## YEAR GROUP NEWS



### Muddy Ducks Nursery

Our FOS for the next half term is 'What's inside?'. This project teaches children about the changes that happen during spring, including the types of weather associated with spring. It also explores new life, including the life cycle of frogs and life from eggs to chicks/ ducklings and farm animals.



### Muddy Ducks Pre-School

Preschool children have had a great time this half term with our 'Dinosaur Roar!' Field of Study. We have learnt about lots of different dinosaurs, practiced our writing, had lots of fun with messy play and even created our own dinosaurs! We are looking forward to our next Field of Study, 'Into the Woods' when we will be looking at lots of fairy tales



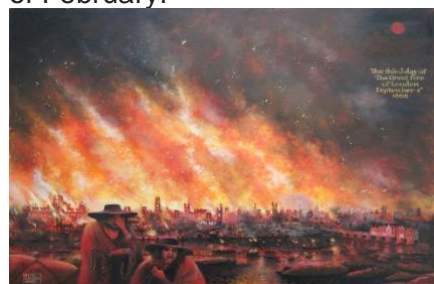
### Reception

This term we have enjoyed our Field of Study: 'Marvellous Machines', we have been creating our own inventions using recycled objects from around the home. Thank you for joining us for our Pyjama Pitstop and our Invention Convention this term. We love having you in to share our new learning. Please remember to post all the wonderful learning you do at home on Tapestry. Thank you to the parents that regularly engage.



### Year 1

This half term we have had a wonderful time learning all about London. This has been done using stories, maps, pictures, videos and virtual tours ready for our trip next term! The children loved our story 'Katie in London' and even acted out parts of the story involving the 2 children from the story and the giant lion! We have started to learn about the great fire of London in English and Field of Study. The children should be experts in fire safety by now! In maths, we have been learning about numbers to 20, including adding, subtracting and comparing. Soon, we will be moving onto place value within 50. Please continue to access both Maths and English homework on Google Classroom as this supports the children's learning in school and we love to share what the children have been doing with the rest of the class. We had a great science workshop about materials, and we can't wait for our next adventure to London at the end of February!



### Year 2

This half term we have got stuck into our new Field of Study 'Long Live the King'. We have already learnt about many of the different kings and queens of England including William the Conqueror, King Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and our current monarch King Charles. We even met Queen Victoria when past productions came in. We also had the opportunity to try jousting and Tudor dancing! In English we have looked at the book 'Queen Victoria's Bathing Machine'. We learnt a lot about the life of Victoria and decided Ms BB needed a bathing machine so made persuasive posters to convince her! In maths we have been learning about money. The children have been practising counting in 2's, 5's and 10's to support their counting of coins. In Science we have been learning about the human life cycle. We learnt about how babies grow and develop into toddlers and children. We have now moved onto learning about animal and insect lifecycles. We can't wait to continue our learning in these subjects next half term!



### Year 3

Year 3 had an awesome trip to the Natural History Museum in London! We explored the Dinosaurs Gallery and saw what a T-Rex would have looked like when it was alive! We saw the plesiosaur fossil that Mary Anning discovered in Lyme Regis and many other incredible fossils. We found out more about the layers of the earth, rocks and crystals and we enjoyed a show about earthquakes and volcanoes – luckily we managed to save the world! In English we are excited to have had a live zoom interview with Jess Butterworth, the author of our class text 'Into the Volcano'. We still have lots more exciting learning coming up in Spring 2, when we will have a VR experience and a Geobus zoom.







#### Year 4

Year 4 have had an amazingly busy half term! We've had a trip to Henley where we learnt all about rivers around the world and explored the different types of mountains and even made one out of chocolate!

In maths, we've consolidated our understanding of written multiplication & division and length & perimeter. In English, we've loved reading 'The Wind in the Willows' and can't wait to explore the playscript in preparation for our production in Spring 2! Please remember to log into TTRS 10 minutes a day and read every single day for at least 10 minutes to ensure these skills stay sharp over the holiday!



#### Year 5

Our awesome year 5s recently went on a fantastic educational trip to Kew Gardens. During our visit, the children explored the captivating exhibits, and one that particularly caught their attention was the magnificent pagoda. This tied in beautifully with our previous studies on the Legacy of the Dynasties. It was truly fascinating to see how history can intertwine with the natural world. The children also participated in an enthralling workshop that shed light on how we obtain medicines from food and herbs. In our current Field of Study, we are gaining a deeper understanding of food production, both in the UK and around the world. This hands-on experience truly enriched their knowledge and appreciation for the wonders of the natural world. We are immensely proud of our classes for their enthusiasm and engagement during this educational adventure. Thank you for your ongoing support in making such memorable experiences possible, particular thanks to the adults who volunteered to come and support us on the trip!



#### Year 6

Year 6 have had a wonderful Spring 1, learning about Frozen Kingdoms of the world and the environments of the Polar Tundra and the geography of the regions. The children enjoyed the animals experience when they learnt about the inter-dependency of nature and evolutionary adaptations. We have been immersed in the Titanic Detective Agency novel which is a historically accurate fiction - a genre the children have all enjoyed. It was lovely to see so many parents at Parent's Evening and share the great progress being made as well as at our Pit Stop where we worked on chalk art images of the Northern Lights. We very much look forward to continuing our exploration of the Polar regions, focusing on the historical achievements of explorers in the next term.



## Spring 2 Diary.....

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>19<sup>th</sup> February</u> Back to school – gates open at 8:30am	<u>20<sup>th</sup> February</u>	<u>21<sup>st</sup> February</u>	<u>22<sup>nd</sup> February</u>	<u>23<sup>rd</sup> February</u> Reception - Dress Up as a Farmer  Yr2 Windsor Trip
<u>26<sup>th</sup> February</u>	<u>27<sup>th</sup> February</u> Yr1 Trip to London	<u>28<sup>th</sup> February</u>	<u>29<sup>th</sup> February</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> March</u> St David's Day
<u>4<sup>th</sup> March</u> Yr3/4 VR Experience	<u>5<sup>th</sup> March</u>	<u>6<sup>th</sup> March</u>	<u>7<sup>th</sup> March</u> Mother's Day Craft 2.30pm Reception	<u>8<sup>th</sup> March</u> Springtime Supper
<u>11<sup>th</sup> March</u> Ramadan begins	<u>12<sup>th</sup> March</u> Reception - Farm trip	<u>13<sup>th</sup> March</u>	<u>14<sup>th</sup> March</u>	<u>15<sup>th</sup> March</u> CLUBS END
<u>18<sup>th</sup> March</u> Yr5 Finale	<u>19<sup>th</sup> March</u>	<u>20<sup>th</sup> March</u>	<u>21<sup>st</sup> March</u> Year 6 Finale Polar Presentations	<u>22<sup>nd</sup> March</u> Hot Cross Cafe
<u>25<sup>th</sup> March</u> Yr 6 Residential Yr3 Geobus Zoom Yr1 Pit Stop	<u>26<sup>th</sup> March</u> Yr 4 Performance 1.45pm and 6.00pm	<u>27<sup>th</sup> March</u> Yr 6 Residential Return Reception Finale Pizzeria 2pm	<u>28<sup>th</sup> March</u> Yr3 Pitstop 2.30pm End of term – 3:15pm	<u>Good Friday</u>



## In the community



Tel. 01494 924214

Email: [instrumental@bucksmusic.org](mailto:instrumental@bucksmusic.org)

Dear Parent/Carer,

Over the last few weeks, the New Mozart Orchestra and Bucks Music Trust tutors have visited Thomas Hickman school. We had a fantastic time with the children, and hope very much lots of them are now inspired to take up an instrument themselves.

If your child is interested, you can apply directly on our website for lessons and music centre, by following these links:

Lessons: [www.bucksmusic.org/book-lessons](http://www.bucksmusic.org/book-lessons)

Music centre information: <https://www.bucksmusic.org/music-centres/>

Music Centre: <https://www.bucksmusic.org/join-music-centre/>

Pricing: <https://www.bucksmusic.org/pricing/>

The instruments that your child tried in the workshop were Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Bassoon, Trombone, Trumpet, Violin, 'Cello and Guitar. . In the NMO visit, they were treated to a performance that showcased some of these instruments, and we all had a lot of fun !

Hopefully, both of these approaches have sparked an interest in your child getting involved with music-making, and do let me know if you have any queries.

Warm regards,

Carolyn Sewell

Senior Manager Instrumental Engagement and Exams, Buckinghamshire Music Trust

01494 924241



BMT  
LOVE BUCKS, LOVE MUSIC



Where **CURIOSITY** HATCHES, **creativity** takes **flight** and **learning** SOARS TO A SKY OF **opportunity**.




### Buckinghamshire Family Learning

Find ways to help build your child's confidence and resilience

Discover how to help your child manage stress and anxiety

**Y1&2- Support Your Child with Their Wellbeing**

Join our **free**, 2 hour, 5-week online course.

[Tuesday 20 February, 9:30am](#)

To book a place, please click on a day above, scan the QR code below or phone 01296 383582 with the code FMFW061.









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### Buckinghamshire Family Learning

Fun activities to help your child to enjoy books and understand stories.

Find out ways to support your child with phonics.

**Reception storybook reading and phonics workshop**

Join our **free**, 2 hour, 1-week online course.

[Monday 19 February, 9:30am](#)  
[Tuesday 20 February, 9:30am](#)  
[Wednesday 21 February, 9:30am](#)

To book a place, please click on a day above, scan the QR code below or phone 01296 383582 with the code FMFW061.









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### Buckinghamshire Family Learning

How can I use a story to support my child with their reading and comprehension?

Where can I find easy, fun activities to help engage my child with stories?

**The Tale of the Whale story Workshop**

Join our **free** workshop

For parents and carers of children in Year 1 and 2, at school in Buckinghamshire

[Monday 19th February- 19:00-21:00](#)  
[Tuesday 20th February- 12:30-14:30](#)  
[Wednesday 21st February- 09:30-11:30](#)  
[Thursday 22nd February- 09:30-11:30](#)

To book your place, please click on the date above or the QR code below









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### Buckinghamshire Family Learning

How can I use stories to develop my child's reading and writing?

Where can I find fun activities to help engage my child with books and comprehension?

**Revolting Rhymes Reading and Writing Workshop**

Join our **free**, 1 week online workshop,

For parents and carers of children in Year 3 and 4.

[Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February 12.30-2.30pm](#)  
[Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 12.30-2.30pm](#)

To book, either click on a date above or scan the QR code below.









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### Buckinghamshire Family Learning

How can I engage my child to complete their homework and form good study habits, at this age?

Where can I find easy, fun activities to help my child complete their homework to a good level?

**Support your child with Homework**

Join our **free**, 1 week online workshop,

For parents and carers of children in Years 3,4,5&6

Choose from: [Wednesday 21st February 7-9pm](#)  
Or [Thursday 22nd February 9.30-11.30am](#)

To book your place, please click on a date above or scan the QR code below.









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